

NOAA's PRESERVE AMERICA INITIATIVE GRANTS

Request for Proposals in 2007

DUE APRIL 27, 2007

Eligibility: Open only to NOAA employees, NOAA-wide

Introduction

NOAA's **Preserve America Initiative Grants (PAIG)** are in response to President Bush's call to federal agencies to preserve and highlight historical assets (such as shipwrecks, historical sites, buildings, instruments, documents, photographs, important people and their careers, and other materials that have helped advance knowledge of the environment). Proposed projects under this mini-grant program should provide innovative ways to preserve and showcase NOAA assets that represent the Agency's heritage and contributions of science, service, and stewardship to the nation. Project proposals can vary in scope from interpreting historic and cultural assets in NOAA's care to capturing oral histories of NOAA stakeholder groups, including fishermen, Native Americans, and Western Pacific indigenous communities.

Last year's projects ranged widely and were a tremendous success. The ten projects funded in FY06 ranged from \$4,000 to \$25,000. In the past two years, some projects not funded by PAIG found their own champions and pursued funding under other sponsorship as a result of the increased visibility of the Preserve America Initiative. NOAA is leading the way for federal agencies in implementing the Preserve America Initiative. Just as during the first two years, NOAA leaders again encourage NOAA employees to develop new, creative projects to capitalize on NOAA heritage assets.

NOAA Preserve America Initiative Grants will be awarded only to NOAA offices, although other federal, state, tribal, Native Hawaiian, other native cultures, academic and non-profit organizations can act as partners¹. Projects should be designed to address a specific need and be completed within a calendar year. Ongoing projects will be considered, and phased multi-year approaches are eligible although ongoing funding is not guaranteed. Projects that can be replicated are encouraged. The total available funding this year is approximately \$100,000.

This grant process has an accelerated timeline this year compared to the past two years (see below). Thus, the program committee has strived to make the process straightforward and uncomplicated. Keep your proposals brief! Proposals are limited to five (5) pages and, other than the required letters of support from partners, we discourage the inclusion of fancy or glossy attachments. Please contact the program coordinator if you have any questions.

PAIG Goals

1. Preserve, protect, or enhance historic NOAA properties or heritage assets (from historic maps and charts to historic scientific equipment to shipwrecks).

¹ A Partner is a participating organization or agency that is *external* to NOAA.

2. Put these assets to use in educational, research, tourism, or other types of projects.
3. Incorporate unique local or regional cultural heritage (such as local and tribal fishing traditions).
4. Develop new partnerships or expand existing partnerships.
5. Provide economic benefits (by preserving valuable assets, promoting heritage tourism, etc.).
6. Relate to NOAA's mission (as stated in "NOAA's Mission" and "NOAA's Goals and Priorities" on the NOAA website under the heading "NOAA Strategic Planning").

Developing Proposals

Use the Project Proposal Guidelines (separate document) to develop your proposal. Please follow the instructions. Proposals are limited to five (5) pages of text (not including cover page) and 10 copies are due to the program coordinator on **April 27, 2007** (address below).

Factors Used in Ranking

1. Addresses PAIG goals, as described above.
2. Budget breakdown showing amounts to be covered by the grant, existing NOAA funds, and those covered by partners (see the proposal guidelines for details).
3. A clearly described schedule or timeline for implementation, including progress milestones, deliverables or products, measures of success or accomplishment. (Success is not simply conceiving a new product. Success is how the use of the product helps to achieve a particular objective or goal. What kind of impact does its use cause?)
4. Letters of support from all partners, clearly stating the specific level of support (quantifiable) and commitment. Letters should be specific to the project and not a form letter, if possible.
5. Description of new or enhanced crosscutting² opportunities within NOAA.
6. Opportunities for expanding the project into subsequent years, exporting it into other locations or programs, or working with additional partners.

Review Procedures

Proposals will be reviewed by a committee of NOAA employees. Proposals that are selected will be announced in late May 2007 and funds awarded by June 15, 2007. Proposals not selected this year can be revised, improved, and submitted the following year.

Critical Dates

March 30, 2007	Grant opportunity announced
April 27, 2007	Deadline for receipt of proposals (you must submit 10 copies to the Program Coordinator; early submittals encouraged)
May 31, 2007	Announcement of selected proposals
June 15, 2007	Award funds

² A crosscutting opportunity involves one or more different offices or programs of NOAA.

September 1, 2007

All project funds must be obligated

Summary

This will be the third year of this exciting grant opportunity for NOAA staff. It builds upon the momentum and success of past years, is complimented by NOAA's 200th Celebration held in commemoration of the Coast and Geodetic Survey's 200th Anniversary . From the establishment of the Survey of the Coast in 1807 by Thomas Jefferson to the formation of the Weather Bureau and the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries in the 1870s, much of America's scientific heritage is rooted in NOAA. This grant program also allows for creating new opportunities ripe with promise for protecting, preserving and promoting NOAA's heritage assets. NOAA helped a young nation grow and has evolved into the dominant role we now play in commerce, science, and conservation. The NOAA Preserve America Initiative helps to build and share the story of how NOAA's past and continuing legacy supports our nation's cultural heritage and flourishing economy.

For information, contact:

P/A Initiative Grant website: <http://preserveamerica.noaa.gov/welcome.html>

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